

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/574,674

Examiner

NANCY BITAR

Applicant(s)

HILL ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

**- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/7/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 8-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/9/2009.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

/Wes Tucker/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Nancy Bitar/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

**DETAILED ACTION**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David McClaughry on 12/9/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9 (currently amended) A method for image monitoring using a plurality of digital still camera units operatively connected to each other and to a central controller using wireless communications, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting motion of a moving object using a motion detector included in at least one of the camera units;

**triggering the transmission of a series of digital still images from the memory buffer to a central controller** following the detection of motion of the moving object, **[[an image sensor included in at least one of the camera units to receive a digital still image of the moving object]] the series of digital still images including digital still images received before the detection of motion;**

determining whether **the series of** digital still **[[image]] images** should be transmitted wirelessly to the central controller by analyzing the **series of** digital still **[[image]] images** using

a micro controller included in at least one of the camera units and operatively connected to the image sensor; **[[and]]**

determining whether a digital still image received at the central controller from said at least one of the camera units should be transmitted to a monitoring station;

**wherein at least one of the camera units includes a pre-trigger feature including the steps of continuously receiving digital still images from the image sensor, storing the digital still images in a memory buffer of at least one camera units, and following a detection of motion by the motion detector, transmitting to the central controller a series of the digital still images received before the detection of motion.**

*Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 1-6; 8-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After reviewing the remarks made by the Applicant in response to the non-final office action the Examiner finds the remarks to be persuasive. The combination of references to Ramirez Diaz et al ( 6,476,858), Monroe et al (US 7,131,136) and Rajeev et al ( CA 2242322) do not teach or fairly suggest the combination of claimed features as recited. Neither Ramirez, Monroe, nor Rajeev discloses:

*the camera units includes a pre-trigger feature that, following a detection of motion by the motion detector, transmits to the central controller a series of buffered digital still images captured before the detection of motion .*

The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NANCY BITAR whose telephone number is (571)270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nancy Bitar/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Wes Tucker/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624